



Ministry of Energy, Mines
and Petroleum Resources
Hon. Anne Edwards, Minister

MINERAL RESOURCES DIVISION

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BRANCH
1992-93 PLAN**



CC
E45R47
D 86
1991 93

C. 2

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BRANCH
1992-93 PLAN**



1992-1993 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BRANCH PLAN

MISSION

Through the Mines Act, the Resource Management Branch ensures worker health and safety, public safety, and suitable reclamation and protection of the land and watercourses affected by mining and exploration work. Branch staff monitor mining activity to ensure optimum resource extraction, promote technological advances to improve efficiencies, and facilitate and expedite sound, publicly acceptable mining ventures as a key participant in the Ministry's comprehensive project review and assessment process.

STAFFING

The Branch's staffing plan will work towards achieving a balance at all levels that mirrors the changing mosaic of the workforce by identifying and removing barriers to women, the disabled, aboriginals and ethnic minorities.

Public interest and expectations for greater involvement in new mine proposals, combined with increased land use planning (parks, forests, watersheds) by other ministries and heightened public awareness and concern about mining activities, continues to require more staff attention and closer liaison with federal and provincial government ministries and agencies.

The Branch was reorganized into two sub-Branch units to focus staff efforts in the areas of Occupational Health and Safety and Environmental Impact Management. The Branch continues to place a priority on establishing Regional Managers in field offices to streamline the regional Mine Development Assessment Process (MDAP) and key environmental and engineering permitting functions.

Full staffing is expected to be achieved in 1992. Some key functions have been carried out under contract to fulfill the mandate and assist with essential administrative tasks and technical issues.

BUDGET

\$5,816,304

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- o Guide new mining proposals through a thorough yet timely review and permitting process to ensure environmentally and technically sound mining activity that is acceptable to the public and compatible with aboriginal people's traditional use of the land.
- o Monitor mining activity for safe conceptual design and operating practices, compliance with approved plans, statutes, regulations and standards, healthy working environment, environmental protection and progressive reclamation of disturbances, adequacy of training programs, competency of supervision and equipment safety.
- o Ensure that mining legislation and regulations reflect changing policies, technology and practice, and establish appropriate up-to-date standards and guidelines.
- o Seek solutions to mining-related environmental and land use conflicts.
- o Seek solutions to environmental problems stemming from historic mine sites.
- o Ensure that all accidents are reported and investigated in a timely manner and that the mining industry is advised of potential hazards identified during the investigations.
- o Continue the development and implementation of comprehensive safety audits at operating mines.
- o Ensure that the industry is adequately prepared to cope with mine emergencies.

- o Provide advice and guidance to the mining industry, other Ministries, government agencies and the public on Ministry policies and programs, and foster technological research and development.
- o Provide information and advice to Cabinet and senior government decision-makers.
- o Participate with private industry, academia and other government agencies to promote new technology to improve efficiencies in the mining industry.
- o Organize and maintain a statistical data base on Branch activities (e.g. numbers of inspections, notices/approvals, permits and certificates issued, accidents, dangerous occurrences, acreage disturbed and reclaimed, reclamation securities held, etc.).
- o Monitor and reinforce standards of ethical behaviour in the Branch.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- o Complete Branch reorganization.
- o Provide timely, technically sound review and approvals of Notices of Work for mineral exploration, sand and gravel, quarries and placer operations.
- o Coordinate environmentally acceptable proposed and existing mining activity by liaising with other agencies (Federal-Provincial), municipalities and Regional Districts, special interest groups and the public.
- o Review new mine projects and expansions of existing mines to ensure plans and mining systems comply with the Mines Act and the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code and environmentally, technically sound mining practices.
- o Issue permits and establish bonding and special conditions relative to site sensitivity, environmental concerns, and reclamation objectives for all mining activities.
- o Monitor mining activity for safe operating practices, with approved plans, statutes, regulations and standards, environmental protection and progressive reclamation of disturbances.
- o Review and refine policy statements on acid mine drainage, historic contaminated sites, mine rock dumps, extended hours of work, reclamation standards and bonding.
- o Develop and implement mine specific reclamation fund mechanisms.
- o Define the outstanding reclamation liabilities for all major mines in B.C.
- o Increase the scope and frequency of Occupational Health and Safety inspections at operating mines.

- o Maintain efficient mine information systems and administration and provide quality service to the stakeholders and the public.
- o Continue to develop centers of technical competence within the Branch through the "Program of Excellence".
- o Promote "User Awareness" with regard to the Mine Information System (MIS) and general computer literacy.
- o Encourage staff to participate in systems development and maintenance of information systems.
- o Standardize the software and hardware currently in the Branch, as well as future purchases.
- o Further develop computerized information systems to streamline data access and transfer.
- o Exercise the Province's fiduciary responsibility with respect to aboriginal peoples for all mining activity.
- o Participate in research and development committees, form new policies and keep abreast of technological advances, e.g. mine waste dumps and acid mine drainage.
- o Increase inspection coverage at placer and exploration properties to ensure compliance with operating and equipment standards.
- o Represent the Mineral Resources Division in all land use issues.
- o Complete the certification of mine supervisors at operating mines.
- o Review and update the Health Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines In British Columbia.

- o Work towards developing a higher profile for the Provincial Mine Rescue Competitions in keeping with their importance to effective emergency response.
- o Increase visibility of the Inspector at all properties and ensure awareness of industry supervisors and workers to the Mines Act.
- o Develop a plan for management and regulation of all sand and gravel pits.
- o Encourage the further development of the Internal Responsibility System for worker safety at mines by providing greater assistance and training to the joint worker-management occupational health and safety committees.
- o Establish an on-going schedule of mine safety audits at operating mines.
- o Conduct environmental audits of selected mines throughout the Province.
- o Ensure that those who may be affected by mine exploration and development (e.g. guide outfitters, trappers, aboriginal peoples) are aware of proposed mining activity and implement procedures to facilitate availability and public access to Ministry information and data bases.
- o Ensure that all major mines establish their own monitoring programs for health and safety and environmental hazards.
- o Identify funding to resolve high-cost operating problems at mines from government/industry groups and investigate cost sharing for research projects.
- o Actively implement employment equity within the Branch.
- o Strive towards service quality by providing timely and accurate written and verbal advice to industry, government and public clients.
- o Develop and distribute information, such as brochures, to assist clients and the public in dealing with the Branch.

- o Maintain efficient administration of permits, certificates, securities, guidelines, statistics on accidents and dangerous occurrences, annual reports, records systems, accounts, personnel records, and abandoned mine plans.
- o Complete the Branch Policy and Procedures Manual begun in fiscal 91/92.
- o Promote staff training and good communication within the Branch through courses, seminars, conferences, staff annual meetings, etc.

ACTIVITIES

- o Continue research in areas of significant environmental impacts such as acid mine drainage, cyanide in tailings and stability of mine rock dumps - the largest man-made structures on the face of the earth.
- o After review of a unique occupational health study which has just been completed to examine fatigue and other physical and psychological health effects on underground mine workers employed on extended hours of work (12 hours/day), develop appropriate Branch policy and legislation.
- o Establish and chair public liaison committees for mine decommissioning.
- o Update guidelines for medical surveillance programs and the operation of occupational health and safety committees and complete a mine emergency response manual and action plan.
- o Distribute the Mine Emergency Management Plan and Mine Emergency Response Plan Guidelines and implement them or integrate them with plans already established by the individual mines.
- o Initiate research projects to improve mine efficiency and enhance safety in processing and materials handling.
- o Continue to provide assistance to mines using the Mine Accident Reporting System (MINACC), ensuring the system meets user requirements.
- o Provide mine sites with timely accident reports.
- o Form a microcomputer users group, to focus initially on Mine Information System (MIS) user training, to address all internal computer-related issues.
- o Enhance the operation of a data base program to capture mine approval application confirmation (NOTICES).

- o Initiate studies and research projects to determine epidemiological effects of workplace contaminants on workers.
- o Upgrade inspectors' training to enhance workplace safety and occupational health monitoring.
- o Encourage excellence in team mine rescue techniques through grants to safety associations for competitions and participate in the operation of mine rescue competitions.
- o Mitigate acid mine drainage from the abandoned Mt. Washington mine, develop a program to monitor Britannia Mine workings and identify all other abandoned mine sites with contamination problems.
- o Organize the biennial Mechanical/Electrical Symposium in Victoria in February 1993 to encourage the development and introduction of safer and more efficient mining/processing systems.
- o Hold workshops, solicit comment and amend Guidelines for Waste Dump Design, Investigation, Construction, Monitoring and Failure Analysis.
- o Carry out assessments of engineering designs, regular inspections of major geotechnical works at mines and promote research to improve geotechnical knowledge and tools.
- o Inspect mining roads regularly.
- o Participate in the annual Reclamation Symposium to promote state-of-the-art mine reclamation in B.C.
- o Refine procedures for collecting fair and reasonable Notice of Work processing and resource management fees from the mining industry.
- o Compile statistical information to be reported in annual reports and quarterly publications.

- o Monitor accident frequencies and proactively work to reduce the number of occupational accidents and enhance safety awareness.
- o Circulate Hazard Alerts and reports on dangerous occurrences and fatal accidents to the mining industry.
- o Foster students' interest in mining careers by hiring them to work on special projects.
- o Provide staff with adequate training to perform their duties effectively and determine need for future training based on training needs analysis.
- o Maintain and encourage a broad based staff committee to implement a training program and to address operational issues in the Branch.
- o Address the requirements of the new Freedom of Information legislation.
- o Prepare quick accurate responses to Ministry assignments and requests for information.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

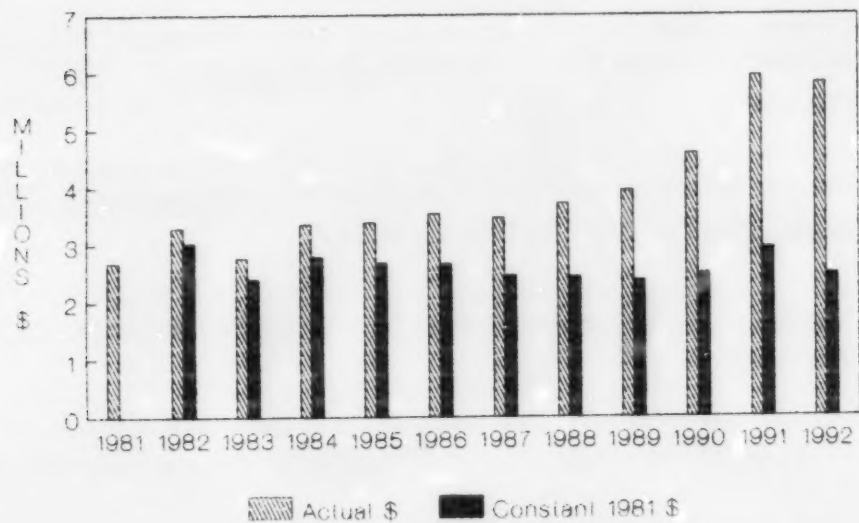
- o Number of inspections performed.
- o Number of Notices of Work/approvals for mining received and efficiency in processing.
- o Number of reviews submitted and completed under the Mine Development Assessment Process (MDAP).
- o Number of dangerous occurrences/fatal accidents reported and investigated.
- o Timely turnaround of Ministry/Branch assignments.
- o Total value of reclamation security deposits.
- o Total area of mining disturbance reclaimed.
- o Number of training courses taken by Branch staff - percentage of budget spent on training.
- o Number of prosecutions initiated.
- o Number of safety audits undertaken.
- o Number of operational permits issued which includes explosives storage and use permits, mine hoist approvals, diesel permits, mobile equipment approvals, elevator permits and reclamation.
- o Number of certificates issued which includes blasting certificates, mine rescue and mine rescue instructor's certificates, coal certificates, shiftboss certificates and supervisor certificates.

92/06/08

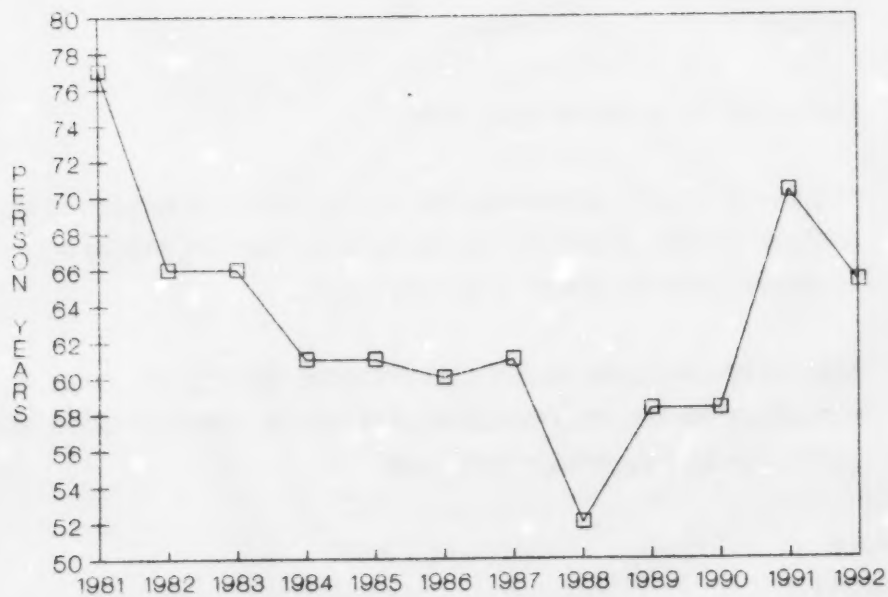
PLAN9293

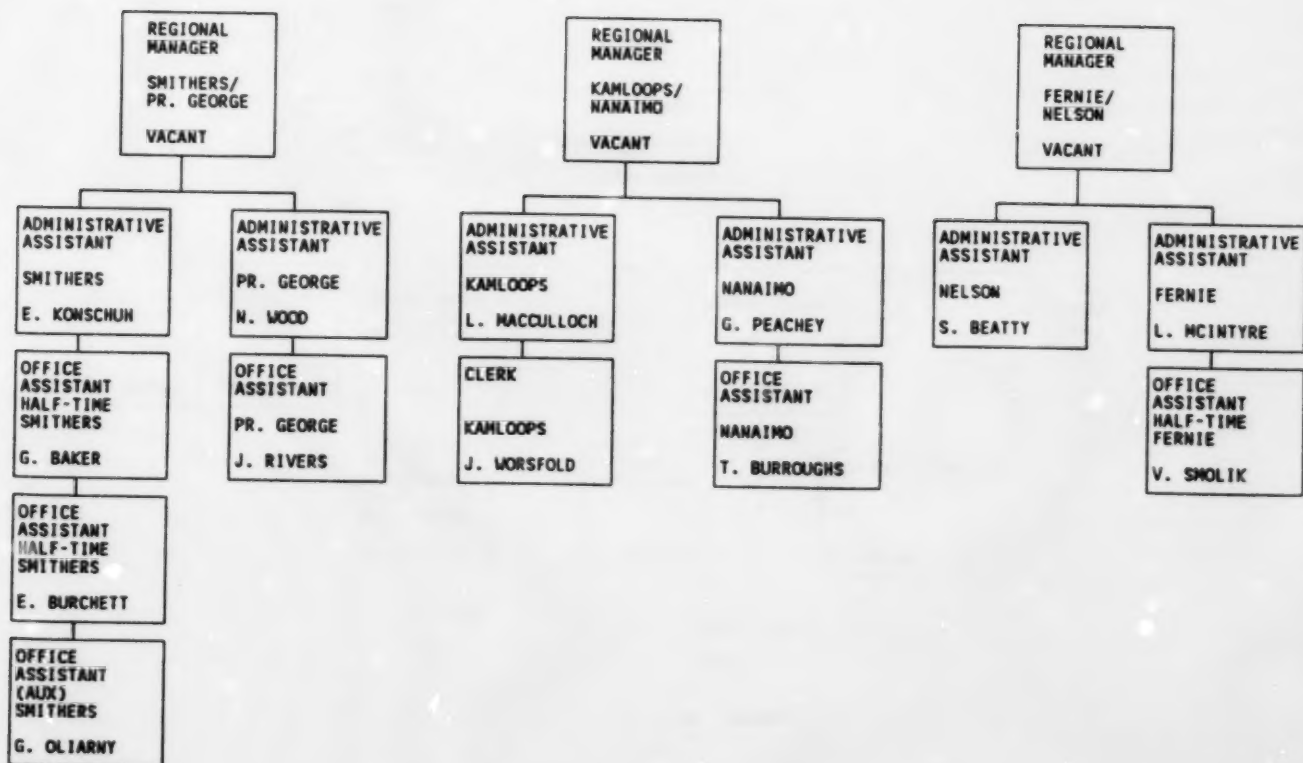
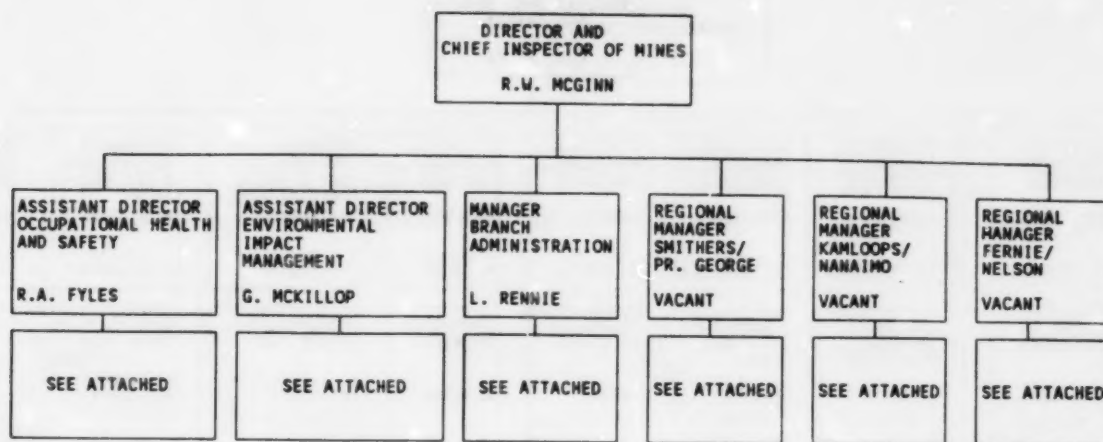
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BRANCH

BUDGET



STAFFING LEVELS





ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
AND SAFETY

R.A. FYLES

